

165 Brick Store Landing Road Smyrna, DE 19977 302-659-DEMA (3362) or 1-877-SAY DEMA FAX 302-659-6853

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tuesday, August 25

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosanne Pack
(302) 659-2210

(302) 222-6573

National Preparedness Month observed with Family Emergency Preparedness fest

Jake's and Wawa join preparedness team

Jake's Burgers and Wawa markets are on board for Family Emergency Preparedness Day, Saturday, Sept. 12. The day of free activities, demonstrations, exhibits and training includes free burgers or hot dogs from Jake's and cold drinks provided by Wawa.

Set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Dover, the annual event is part of Delaware's observance of National Preparedness Month. Hosted this year by Kent County Dept. of Public Safety, activities and exhibits will be on the front lawn and parking lot of the Delaware Dept. of Transportation at 800 Bay Rd., across from the Blue Hen Corporate Center. Training sessions will be in air conditioned classrooms in the DelDOT building.

Admission and participation in all activities is free of charge and games and prizes are available for all ages. Large fire-fighting equipment, including the Dover Air Force Base Crash and Fire Fighter vehicle, the Kent County Decontamination Unit and Little Creek Fire Company pumper/rescue truck will be on display.

The Wal-Mart "No Zone" 18-wheeler display allows adults and children to take the wheel in the driver's seat for a real life view of how visible or invisible other vehicles are in average traffic.

The Dover Air Force Base K-9 unit will perform a demonstration and the Delaware National Guard rock climbing wall will help all ages get high on fun and adventure. Bridgeville Fire Company model house will keep everyone guessing about fire safety and the unexpected common hazards found in many homes.

There are more than 30 exhibitors and many interesting educational activities are scheduled for the day. The Office of Highway Safety will have displays on child seat and seat belt safety. Special Needs Alert Program (SNAP) will introduce families to an emergency registry for children with special needs. There will be information available on flu prevention and vaccination clinics for H1N1 virus (swine flu). DEMA and the Red Cross will have information and activities to guide households in emergency planning for tropical storms, other bad weather or manmade hazard events.

Pets are not left out at Family Emergency Preparedness Day. Beaver Dam Pet Foods will have a display and provide pet food samples, and Delaware Animal Disaster Services will host a training session, "No Pet Left Behind."

Other training sessions are "Be Red Cross Ready," and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program family emergency preparedness presentation, "Are You Prepared?" One Delaware Citizen Corps backpack filled with basic emergency supplies will be given away at each training session.

In addition to Kent County Dept. of Public Safety, other sponsors include DEMA, Citizen Corps, the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, American Red Cross of Delmarva, Div. of Public Health Preparedness Section, Senior Corps, Kent County Levy Court, the City of Dover and Smyrna Civilian Auxiliary Patrol. Delaware joins 50 other states and the District of Columbia in scheduling National Preparedness Month activities.

Sunday, Sept. 13, noon to 4 p.m. is the rain date for Family Emergency Preparedness Day.

For further information, contact Rosanne Pack, 222-6573, or Marny McLee, 659-2243.